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5 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: White House Meeting of Legislative Interdepartmental Group

1. This afternoon I attended a meeting of the Legislative Interdepartmental Group in the Situation Room of the White House. The meeting was chaired by General Haig and included the following: Ken Belieu, Dick Cook, John Scali, and John Lehman, of the White House staff; David Abshire and Joe Wolf, of State Department; Rady Johnson, Jim Lawrence and Stuart French, of Defense Department; and Bob Wild, of Justice.

2. Items of general interest to the Agency included the following:

a. End the War and War Powers Resolutions: Dave Abshire said the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is concentrating on the question of the legality of the war in Southeast Asia. He said much work needs to be done to cope with this. I mentioned that the Director was queried on this subject when he was before the Committee this morning.

b. The Radios: Dave Abshire reported on his various meetings on the Hill with the leadership. He mentioned that Chairman Morgan, House Foreign Affairs Committee, wants to see a copy of the new "Case bill." He has a subcommittee jurisdictional question to resolve. Mr. Abshire's next targets are Senators Ellender and Mansfield, but he is encouraged by the response he has gotten on the Hill so far. He told General Haig that if the President was willing to personally push the Radio legislation, he was optimistic that it could be passed fairly soon. He talked about the continuing resolution scheme for interim financing and asked if the Agency could wrangle some money from its funds. I said the word I had was that Senator Ellender would not budge on any funding scheme and there was absolutely no way that we could come up with funds. Haig said the President feels very strongly about the Radios and he thought he would get behind this legislation.

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